The question was put and the motion was adopted.

KUMARI SELJA: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

THE APPRENTICES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1995

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Apprentices Act, 1961.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Bills are introduced. Thank you very much for all your cooperation, hon. Members.

RE.: QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Rajasthan) : Madam, I draw your kind attention to Rule 187 and Rule 190. I had given a notice of breach of privilege and contempt of the House against hon. Minister for Communications, Shri Sukh Ram. You may kindly recall that on the 22nd August he sought permission of the House to defer the Indian Telegraph Amendment Bill. Then there was a lot of turmoil in the House seeking certain assurances from the Minister that no vital decisions would be taken till the authority was established. And ultimately, he assured the House and he said, "I want to consult all the Opposition Members and have their views for including and incorporating in the comprehensive Bill which we will bring later on." so, we were assured in that way. But, unfortunately, on the same evening, while leaving for abroad for medical treatment, he held a Press conference and in that conference he announced the capping of the licences and thereby that particular news has appeared in today's "Times of India" where in it has been mentioned,—with your permission I will read out:

"The Himachal Furturistic (HFCL) group, based in the home state of communications minister Sukh Ram, has emerged as the biggest beneficiary of the cap of two service areas per company imposed in the nation-wide cellular telephone tender. The consortium of BPL-US West, on the other hand, stands to lose some lucrative circles, despite bidding more aggressively in them compared to the HFCL group."

"A decision capping was finalised late Tuesday,—late Tuesday means 22nd August,—by Mr. Sukh Ram, on the basis of a condition in the tender that 'the telecom authority would be free to restrict the number of service areas for which one company can be licensed to provide the service."

"Interestingly, Sanchar Bhavan sources said the minister's decision is in variance to the recommendations of the Telecom Commission which had suggested that a cap, if necessary, should be imposed only after ensuring that the government is able to secure the highest quoted licence fee in all the circles."

"As per the minister's decision, a company will be allowed a maximum of two licences in category A and category B circles combined."

But what has happened now is "in Gujarat and Maharashtra BPL-US West is the second highest bidder quoting licence fees (net present value) of Rs. 674.41 crore and Rs. 793.77 crore, respectively, over a 10-year period, Fascel Ltd. a joint venture between HFCL and Shinawatra is third with Rs. 666.95 crore and 617.71 crore, respectively."

As against Rs. 793 crores which is the second highest, this bid is Rs. 617 crores, which is less by Rs. 170 crores. But because of capping, for Gujarat and Maharashtra, the company which is the second highest will not be getting, but this company of Himachal Pradesh which is the third highest will be getting it. So, this is a fraud and deception played on this House for seeking deferment of the Bill, Madam, I have moved a motion of previlege against Mr. Sukh Ram.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nilotpal Basu has moved.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: So, Madam, this is very unfair to play a fraud on this House and